

Environmental Design Program

Editorial Number 5
October 2002



Maryland Department of Natural Resources
C. Ronald Franks, Secretary
www.dnr.state.md.us

The Environmental Design Bus Tours

Local Government Planning

A service of the Environmental Design Program, the Bus Tours are designed to advance the use of economically and environmentally responsible building and design techniques, by providing the motivated parties the opportunity to learn first-hand from the projects and practitioners who have successfully implemented them.

The Bus Tour In Practice

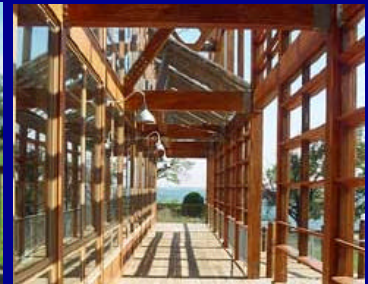
In response to the growing interest in applying sustainable building and design practices from local government partners, the 2002 Bus Tour focused on the planning and policy aspect of these innovative projects. On October 22, more than thirty elected, administrative and planning officials were provided a detailed tour of three facilities in Anne Arundel County: the Chesapeake Bay Foundation Headquarters, the County's Heritage Government Complex, and a straw bale home. As a result, a number of the practices and techniques presented on the tour were implemented by the attending jurisdictions.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation Headquarters

Labeled as the "Greenest Building in the Country," the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's headquarters in Annapolis demonstrates the important connection between buildings and their environment. The building is LEED Platinum certified by the US Green Building Council and is located on a previously existing footprint of the Bay Ridge Inn. The facility saves more than 90% of water compared to similar buildings through cisterns, composting toilets, BayScaping techniques, and bioretention facilities. The building also uses less energy through the use of structurally insulated panels, solar hot water heating, geothermal heat pumps, and natural lighting. To create a healthier building and improve worker productivity, the builders opted against using finishes, drywall and features operating windows.

Anne Arundel County's Heritage Complex

Leading by example, the County implemented a number of innovative stormwater management techniques at the County's Heritage Government Complex. The County constructed several bioretention facilities in the Heritage parking area – a water quality practice in which plants and soils remove pollutants from stormwater. In addition, the Department of Public Works implemented six living roofs throughout the County, beginning with a county maintenance shed in the Heritage Office Complex.



Local Government Planning: The Environmental Design Program works directly with local government partners to generate codes, ordinances and development policies that allow development to proceed in an economically and environmentally responsible fashion.

Straw Bale Home

Personally committed to making minimal impact on their surroundings, a couple in northern Anne Arundel County designed and constructed a straw bale home. By utilizing this innovative technique, the homeowners were able to use a completely renewable resource, reduce construction costs, increase energy savings, and create an attractive and comfortable home. In addition to the straw bale construction, other environmentally responsible techniques used, included a living roof, southern exposure, deciduous shading, composting toilets, and reused materials and appliances.

To learn more about the Environmental Design Bus Tour or other services offered by the Environmental Design Program, check www.dnr.state.md.us/ed or call 410.260.8710.



Advancing the application of economically sound and environmentally sensitive building and site-design techniques. The Environmental Design Program is an Education, Bay Policy and Growth Management project of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and is funded in part through the Maryland Coastal Zone Management Program, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, pursuant to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Award No. NA17OZ1124. For more information: Tel: (410) 260.8710 www.dnr.state.md.us/ed

